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The Binding Force of International Law. By A. PEARCE HIGGINS.
(Cambridge: University Press, 1910.)

Professor Higgins, the well-known English publicist, has published his inaugural lecture at the London School of Economics in the form of this booklet of some fifty pages. The discussion extends beyond the scope of the title. The author discusses the origin and growth of international law, and deals with the objections to its acceptance as law. He approves of Hall's definition of international law as a body of "rules of conduct, which modern civilized states regard as being binding on them in their relations with one another with a force comparable in nature and degree to that binding the conscientious person to obey the laws of his country." He concludes that these rules of conduct are generally observed by states. Reasons for the observance of international law are several: First, "because states do not think it worth while to break its rules, as any inconvenience they may suffer by the observance is more than counterbalanced by the advantages which flow from the maintenance of a condition of peace"; secondly, it is observed, "because of the fear of encountering the condemnation of the public opinion of the world"; thirdly, it is observed, "because the conscience of the world finds in its rules an increasing approximation to the rule of right," to the generally accepted standards of justice and humanity. His discussion of the relation between international law and peace is interesting. He concludes that nations are not yet prepared to bring all possible causes of differences within the sphere of the peaceful application of the rules of law. He points out the various agencies such as mediation, arbitration, and commissions of inquiry, which open the way for the peaceful settlement of international differences. The ultimate solution of both international law and peace he finds in the public opinion of the world, which, when properly educated, he considers the ultimate factor both in improving and in enforcing the law of nations.

EDWIN M. BORCHARD.

Individualism: Four Lectures on the Significance of Consciousness for Social Relations. By WARREN FITE. (New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911. Pp. xix, 301.)

Perhaps those who approve least of Professor Fite's doctrines will find most reason to be grateful to him for expressing them. Lectures